



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 26, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: July 25, 2004
CWP WA-CW3004

Spring Cereal Harvest Underway Statewide Triple Digit Temperatures

Field Crops

Winter wheat harvest was in full swing with Adams, Asotin, and Walla Walla Counties reporting average yields. In Thurston County, growers of young Noble firs reported an estimated 25 percent heat scorch damage to new growths. Potato and hay harvests continued.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 7 % very poor, 18% poor, 28% fair, and 47% good. Poultry producers in Thurston County reported greater than normal fatalities due to extremely warm temperatures. Shellfish growers in Pacific County continued Spartina grass control and assessments were made on burrowing shrimp control operations

Fruits and Vegetables

Cranberry growers completed early season weed control efforts and irrigated bogs continually. Blueberry fruit was ripening rapidly, causing a strain on both pickers and berry processing facilities. Raspberry harvest is winding down. Harvest continued on cauliflower, broccoli, dry peas, and soft fruit.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	50	46	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	17	42	41	0
Subsoil	6	30	64	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	46	44	0
Irrigation Water	0	9	91	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	6	93	0
Hay & Roughage	1	5	84	10

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	100	99	100	100
Spring Wheat Harvested	3	0	6	4
Winter Wheat Harvested	15	6	16	13
Barley Headed	100	99	100	100
Barley Harvested	2	1	5	5
Potatoes Harvested	16	10	14	12
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	1	0	0	0
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	93	80	100	95
Dry Peas Harvested	8	4	13	8
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	100	99	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	80	70	95	91
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	12	2	3	9

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	4	25	54	15
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	5	94	1
Spring Wheat Dryland	3	4	37	48	8
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	8	89	3
Barley Dryland	2	2	33	51	12
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	90	10
Potatoes	0	1	9	88	2
Corn	0	0	2	97	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	2	95	3

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Extremely warm temperatures throughout the week found most agricultural producers retreating to the shade of their favorite tree. Several areas of the county reported temperatures of nearly 100 degrees on both Friday and Saturday. Crops under irrigation grew rapidly with the additional heat units. Sweet corn fields under irrigation began to form tassels. Hothouse tomato growers reported difficulty keeping up with harvest requirements. Christmas tree growers reported some heat scorch damage on Noble fir due to the furnace like conditions. Spring flower bulb growers continued digging both daffodils and tulips under nearly ideal bulb drying conditions. The extreme temperatures and lack of moisture over the past week continued to exacerbate drought like conditions throughout the county. The rural landscape was "kinder dry" with very high fire danger. Home gardeners continued to enjoy tomatoes, zucchinis, cucumbers and yellow transparent apples fresh from the garden.

Jefferson: Drought conditions experienced with record high temperatures in the high 90s. Humidity level in forests was down to 18 percent with a few spot wild fires. Two thirds of the garlic was already harvested. Haying was almost complete. Farmer's markets really looked healthy with good green crops and good vegetables coming on line.

Kitsap: Record temperatures continued with most producers needing irrigation to maintain crop and forage production.

Pacific: Very dry conditions continued, with soil moisture at very low levels. Raspberry harvest operations were nearly complete, and irrigation of field crops and pasture land continued where possible. Cranberry growers completed early season weed control efforts, and irrigated bogs continually to maintain adequate moisture levels. Final hay operations were completed for the season. Shellfish growers continued Spartina grass control, and assessments of burrowing shrimp control operations done earlier in July.

Pierce/South King: Conditions remained good for crops in the South Puget Sound area. No unusual situations reported. No reports of crop damage due to weather events were received.

Skagit: Warm dry conditions prevailed, with temperatures hitting the high 80's. Irrigation guns were going on raspberries, potatoes, and other crops. Blueberry fruits were ripening rapidly, and pickers may have difficulty keeping up. Potato and wheat harvest began. Harvest continued on cauliflower, broccoli, and raspberries.

Snohomish/King: Sunny and dry with record-breaking temperatures on Saturday. Grass hay was being cut and baled and grass harvest for silage continued. Manure spreading continued.

Raspberry harvest was winding down while blueberry harvest continued. Apple crop looked good.

Snohomish/North King: The end of the week was a sizzler, with record breaking temperatures in many places. Heat loving vegetables and fruits were doing great. Recently hayed fields were drying up quickly. Corn crops were looking great, especially those that were getting irrigation.

Thurston: Agricultural producers sizzled under record breaking temperatures this past week. Several areas reported temperatures exceeding 100 degrees on both Friday and Saturday. Growers were assessing the effects of the furnace like conditions. There were initial reports from Christmas tree growers that young Noble fir plantations had about 25 percent of the field showing heat scorch damage to the new growth. Poultry producers were reporting greater than normal fatalities due to the stifling temperatures. Blueberry growers were reporting that the fruit appears to all be ripening at once creating intense pressure on their berry processing facilities. Turfgrass growers were racing to try and meet irrigation demands on newly planted fields. Despite their efforts some fields were showing stress due to the lack of sufficient moisture. Pastures and hayfields where irrigation was not available were "kinder dry". For the most part, the entire rural landscape was enormously flammable. A range fire in the Tenino area consumed 45 acres before it could be contained. Home gardeners retreated to the shade and enjoyed their first ripe tomatoes of the season, cucumbers and zucchinis.

Whatcom: It was a cooker with temperatures in the high 80's. Raspberry harvest continued along with blueberries. Potatoes continued to bloom.

Central

Benton: Warm temperatures continued. Soft fruit and wheat harvest, irrigation, and weed control were major activities.

Benton (2nd Report): Harvest continued with yields ranging from 25 to 40 bushels in some parts for winter wheat, 20-32 bushels for spring wheat.

Franklin: Very warm temperatures. Potato harvest continued as did harvest of winter wheat. Green pea harvest was completed. Second cutting of alfalfa was complete and third cutting was well underway.

Grant: Sweet corn harvest was underway. Seed pea and seed crucifer harvest continued. Cherry harvest was complete. Apricot harvest was underway, and peach harvest had begun.

Kittitas: Extreme heat this week kept pasture growth slow. Some corn was beginning to tassle. Some wheat was harvested. Irrigation continued on all crops.

Klickitat: Very hot conditions. Fire consumed some beef range and hayland. Alfalfa weevil was not affecting regrowth as much as last year.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 1 degree below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with .46 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat harvest was in full swing with yields average to above average and the initial grain quality reports were very good.

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest progressed with many producers starting to cut wheat and barley. Hot weather finished ripening crops in many areas. Yield reports were good so far.

Ferry/Okanogan: Second cutting of alfalfa was well underway. Cherry harvest was near completion. Temperatures were in the high 90's to 102 degrees.

Lincoln: Winter wheat harvest picked up throughout the county.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Last week closed with very hot temperatures and wind pushing crops to maturity. A large number of acres of spring grains could have used a rain and yield and quality will more than likely suffer because we did not get the rains that they got down in Whitman County. Some grain harvest may start towards the end of next week.

A lot of grass seed producers were finishing up with reports of yields less than what was expected. Cherry harvest was wrapping up what was a very good crop for the Green Bluff growers.

Stevens: Weather was hot and dry. Cutting of grain hay continued as second cutting of alfalfa began. Grain crops were getting closer to maturity.

Walla Walla/Columbia: Showers over the weekend stopped harvest for a day and a half. Nearly all were harvesting now. Reports to date were that crops were yielding good. Winter wheat was yielding about average in areas where earlier, due to the spring rains, most believed yields would be very poor. Dry pea harvest yields were very good. Range ground was drying up, but still provided good forage for livestock.

Whitman: Conditions cooled to more seasonal temperatures, however, the forecast was for hot dry conditions. The forecast was ideal as harvest on the Palouse kicks off. By the end of next week many areas will be cutting.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

Free e-mail subscriptions are available via automated mailing list for National and State reports. You can subscribe to individual reports and they will be sent directly to your e-mail address soon after the official release time.

Subscribe at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm>

Weekly Weather Statistics

July 26, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	54	88	69	7	134	43	64	43	0.00	-0.28	0	27.79	-6.78	80	140
Everett	56	90	71	8	149	57	79	53	0.00	-0.23	0	27.72	-7.17	79	150
Hoquiam	52	93	67	7	122	45	52	38	0.02	-0.26	1	61.41	-4.84	93	177
Kelso	61	100	77	13	189	90	119	87	0.00	-0.20	0	31.09	-13.83	69	122
Olympia	49	99	71	8	148	53	78	50	0.00	-0.14	0	44.00	-5.16	90	153
Sea-Tac	60	96	74	8	166	54	96	54	0.00	-0.14	0	32.98	-2.96	92	135
Shelton	49	100	71	6	149	40	79	39	0.00	-0.18	0	60.22	-3.29	95	150
Tacoma	52	97	72	8	156	51	86	51	0.00	-0.14	0	30.63	-8.18	79	133
Vancouver	59	103	76	12	185	80	115	80	0.02	-0.12	1	29.78	-10.16	75	145
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	55	102	77	8	187	54	117	54	0.31	0.28	1	7.68	-0.81	90	87
Omak	53	101	77	9	189	63	119	63	0.11	-0.03	1	10.72	-3.14	77	71
Stampede Pass	53	90	69	13	134	89	64	57	0.13	-0.15	1	70.30	-8.53	89	165
Wenatchee	60	99	78	5	200	32	130	32	0.30	0.26	1	9.17	1.34	117	78
Yakima AP	52	99	75	5	175	30	105	31	0.46	0.46	1	6.75	-0.76	90	69
NORTHEAST															
Colville	51	97	74	8	172	53	102	53	0.09	-0.08	1	8.91	-11.05	45	75
Deer Park	43	98	72	3	158	18	88	18	0.07	-0.08	1	17.70	0.06	100	125
Spokane AP	55	96	75	7	180	40	110	40	0.06	-0.08	1	13.26	-2.41	85	109
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	62	100	79	4	206	24	136	24	0.28	0.21	1	5.13	-1.77	74	65
Moses Lake	58	101	78	3	199	17	129	17	0.05	-0.02	1	5.12	-1.78	74	64
Quincy	59	96	76	5	185	32	115	33	0.18	0.14	1	5.11	-2.28	69	58
Ritzville	49	100	74	4	166	26	96	26	0.00	-0.07	0	10.23	-0.60	94	74
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	61	102	80	2	210	9	140	9	0.03	0.00	1	6.41	0.30	105	66
Pasco	54	103	78	3	197	19	127	20	0.01	-0.03	1	7.71	0.65	109	79
Pullman	44	95	70	5	145	33	75	30	0.10	-0.04	1	15.25	-4.83	76	104
Whitman Miss.	49	104	75	4	175	21	105	22	0.14	0.07	2	16.39	3.37	126	115
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	54	93	73	3	163	21	93	22	0.00	-0.17	0	13.51	-10.98	55	105
Lewiston ID	60	104	79	5	205	30	135	30	0.26	0.12	2	11.57	0.02	100	97

Summary based on NWS data.
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
Copyright 2004: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.